



Florida Agricultural Statistics Service
1222 Woodward Street
Orlando, Florida 32803
407 / 648-6013

<http://www.nass.usda.gov/fl>

FIELD CROPS

Crop Production



FLORIDA
AGRICULTURE

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FLORIDA

FLORIDA: Rain and wind caused by tropical systems interrupted some field activities during September. Rains from Tropical Storm Hanna, falling about mid-month, and storms caused by Tropical Storm Isidore at the end of the month slowed peanut, cotton and hay harvesting. These rains lowered the quality of cotton with open bolls. Planting of small grains for grazing in the Panhandle got underway about mid-month. Armyworms continued to infest some hay fields. Some hay producers delayed mowing in late September and early October as Tropical Storm Lili rushed through the Gulf of Mexico. However, most localities escaped harm from Lili.

PEANUTS: Production is expected to total 266,800,000 pounds, up nearly seven percent or 16,700,000 pounds from the 250,100,000 pounds produced in 2001. Yield is set at 2,900 pounds per acre. Last year, yield averaged 3,050 pounds per acre. Acreage to be harvested is set at 92,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from the 82,000 acres dug in 2001.

SUGARCANE: Acres to be cut is set at 455,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from the 465,000 acres harvested last year. Yield is expected to average 36.4 tons per acre, equal to the September forecast, but up

over a ton from last year. Production calculates to 16,552,000 tons, up 214,000 tons from the 16,338,000 tons produced last year.

TOBACCO: Yield averaged 2,600 pounds per acre equal to the 2001 yield. Production is set at 12,480,000 pounds compared with 11,700,000 pounds produced last year.

PECANS: Production of all varieties is expected to total 1,500,000 pounds, down 55 percent from the 3,300,000 pounds produced last year. Production of improved varieties is set at 900,000 pounds, down one-fourth from the 1,200,000 pounds produced last year. Production of native and seedling varieties is estimated at 600,000 pounds down 71 percent from last year's 2,100,000 pounds.

WINTER POTATOES: Final data show that production during January, February and March totaled 1,776,000 hundredweight, up 34 percent from the 1,325,000 hundredweight produced during the winter of 2001. Acreage harvested totaled 6,700 acres, up 1,700 acres from last year. Yield averaged 265 hundredweight per acre, equal to the 2001 yield. In 2001, the winter crop in Dade County was destroyed by heavy rainfall during early December 2000.

UNITED STATES

PEANUTS: Production is forecast at 3.75 billion pounds, down 2 percent from last month and down 12 percent from 2001. Area for harvest is expected to total 1.36 million acres, unchanged from the September estimate, but down 4 percent from 2001. Yields are expected to average 2,757 pounds, 51 pounds below last month and down 272 pounds from 2001. Production in the Southeast States (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina) is expected to total 2.24 billion pounds, down 4 percent from last month and 11 percent below last year. Expected area for harvest, at 819,500 acres, is unchanged from last month, but up 2 percent from the previous year. Yields in the four-State area are expected to average 2,731 pounds per acre, 101 pounds below September and 404 pounds lower than 2001. As of September 29, peanuts in Alabama were rated 73 percent fair to good. Georgia peanuts were rated 72 percent fair to good. Alabama's peanut harvest stood at 28 percent complete on September 29, fifteen percentage points behind the 5-year average. Georgia, at 24 percent complete, lagged behind the 5-year average by 12 percentage points.

COTTON: Upland cotton harvested acreage, at 12.6 million acres, is down fractionally from the previous month and 7 percent less than 2001. American-Pima harvested acreage, at 241,400 acres, is unchanged from last month, but down 10 percent from a year ago. In the Southeastern States, above normal temperatures stimulated maturation, resulting in boll opening, and allowing harvest to progress ahead of normal. Harvest was delayed, however, due to heavy rains, especially in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama. Although the moisture was welcome, it was too late to help the crop. The untimely rains resulted in some boll rot and seed germination. Tropical Storm Isidore dropped large quantities of rain throughout the Delta States. The already delayed harvest due to the slow maturing crop was set back further by the storm. The percent of acreage with bolls opened continued behind the 5-year average, which may limit the amount of lint loss from excess precipitation. The excessive moisture promoted boll lock, boll rot, and decreased the effectiveness of defoliant applications.

FLUE-CURED TOBACCO: Production is expected to total 522 million pounds, virtually unchanged from last month but down 10

percent from 2001. Growers plan to harvest 247,800 acres in 2002, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast but up 4 percent from 2001. Yields are forecast to average 2,106 pounds per acre, 8 pounds above the September forecast but 326 pounds less than the previous year. Higher yields in Georgia more than offset lower yields in Florida. In North Carolina, harvest progress was slowed by rainfall throughout the month.

SUGARCANE: Production is forecast at 35.3 million tons, fractionally above the September 1 forecast and 2 percent above last year's 34.6 million tons. Sugarcane growers intend to harvest 1.02 million acres for sugar and seed during the 2002 crop year. This is slightly lower than the previous month's forecast, and 1 percent below last year's 1.03 million harvested acres. Yield is forecast at 34.6 tons per acre, up 0.2 ton from the September 1 forecast and 3 percent above last year's 33.6 ton yield. Tropical Storm Isidore halted Louisiana's early-season harvest for a few days. Also, severe lodging was expected to result in a more tedious harvest pace. However, acreage and yield reductions were not expected.

WINTER POTATOES: Winter potato production for 2002 was revised to 4.21 million cwt, up 14 percent from the April forecast and 2 percent above 2001. Harvested area of 15,700 acres was 16 percent above the April 1 forecast and 12 percent above 2001. The average yield of 268 cwt per acre was 4 cwt below the April forecast and down 26 cwt from a year ago. California's production rests at 2.43 million cwt, 13 percent below last year. Florida's production of 1.78 million cwt was 34 percent above a year ago.

PECANS: The October 1 forecast for 2002 pecan utilized production is 202 million pounds (in-shell basis), down 40 percent from last year's crop and 4 percent below the 2000 crop year. The dry summer growing conditions in some locations combined with the low year of the alternate bearing cycle, contributed to a markedly smaller crop. These dry conditions caused early nut drop, especially in non-irrigated groves. Improved varieties are expected to make up 152 million pounds or three quarters of the total, while the Native and seedling varieties, at 49.6 million pounds, make up the remaining crop.

Crop production: Acreage for harvest and forecasts of yield and production for Florida
and United States as of October 1, 2002 with comparisons

Crop	Harvested acreage		Yield per acre		Unit	Production	
	2001	For harvest 2002	2001	Indicated 2002		2001	Indicated 2002
	Thousands		Units			Thousands	
FLORIDA							
Cotton	124	^{1/}	612	^{1/}	^{2/}	158	^{1/}
Peanuts	82	92	3,050	2,900	Lbs.	250,100	266,800
Potatoes:							
Winter ^{3/}	5.0	6.7	265	265	Cwt	1,325	1,776
Spring ^{4/}	25.0	25.4	319	283	Cwt	7,970	7,179
Sugarcane	465	455	35.1	36.4	Ton	16,338	16,552
Tobacco, Type 14	4.5	4.8	2,600	2,600	Lbs.	11,700	12,480
OTHER STATES							
FLORIDA AND KANSAS							
Cotton ^{1/}	159.5	174.0	566	676	^{2/}	188.1	245.0
UNITED STATES							
Corn for grain	68,808	70,541	138.2	127.2	Bu.	9,506,840	8,969,836
Cotton, all ^{5/}	13,827.7	12,861.4	705	674	^{2/}	20,302.8	18,070.0
Hay, Alfalfa	23,812	24,134	3.37	3.09	Ton	80,266	74,655
Hay, all other	39,699	40,575	1.93	1.87	Ton	76,437	75,792
Peanuts for nuts	1,411.9	1,360.5	3,029	2,757	Lbs.	4,276,704	3,751,200
Potatoes:							
Winter	14.0	15.7	294	268	Cwt	4,115	4,206
Spring ^{4/}	76.2	77.7	286	280	Cwt	21,814	21,753
Summer ^{4/}	58.8	60.6	310	310	Cwt	18,209	18,813
Fall	1,073.2	1,142.1	367	^{6/}	Cwt	393,750	^{6/}
Rice	3,314	3,207	6,429	6,608	^{7/}	213,045	211,921
Sorghum for grain	8,584	7,528	59.9	51.4	Bu.	514,524	387,249
Soybeans for beans	72,975	71,799	39.6	37.0	Bu.	2,890,682	2,653,798
Sugarbeets	1,243.6	1,370.8	20.7	20.9	Ton	25,787	28,619
Sugarcane for							
sugar and seed	1,028.0	1,022.6	33.6	34.6	Ton	34,587	35,346
Tobacco, All	432.4	434.3	2,293	2,040	Lbs.	991,519	886,020
Tobacco, Type 14	30.6	31.8	2,481	2,133	Lbs.	75,906	67,830
Wheat, all	48,633	46,022	40.2	35.3	Bu.	1,957,043	1,624,636
Winter	31,295	29,651	43.5	38.5	Bu.	1,361,479	1,142,802
Durum	2,789	2,758	30.0	29.1	Bu.	83,556	80,245
Other spring	14,549	13,613	35.2	29.5	Bu.	512,008	401,589

^{1/} Individual State level estimates will be published in the "Crop Production 2002 Summary." ^{2/} Yield in pounds, production in 480 pound net weight bales. ^{3/} 2002 revised. ^{4/} Estimate for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. ^{5/} Includes both upland and Amer-Pima cotton. ^{6/} First forecast in November. ^{7/} Yield in pounds, production in hundredweight.